

Water Quality

Mission

To ensure that Hoosiers have a safe supply of drinking water and that Indiana waterways are safe areas for recreation.

Summary of Activities



The **Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)** Office of Water Management is comprised of five branches which work to achieve the water quality goals of “drinkable, swimmable, fishable” waters for Indiana’s 36,000 river and stream miles, 575 lakes and reservoirs, and Lake Michigan. The five areas of the water program are Assessment, Watershed, Permits, Compliance, and Drinking Water.

The Assessment Branch monitors the quality of surface water to determine if the waters support all uses for drinking, swimming, and fishing. This monitoring occurs throughout the year at 164 fixed station locations on major waterways and a major basin monitoring effort, through intensive field sampling of water quality for physical, chemical, and biological indicators. Those waters that are determined to not meet quality standards are then reviewed by the Planning and Restoration Branch to develop restoration plans to achieve Indiana’s water quality goals through implementation projects within the affected watershed.

In support of the federal Clean Water Act, the Permits and Compliance Branches focus on limiting the discharge of pollutants into Indiana waterways. Permits that limit the amount of water pollution to a level that will not reduce water quality below the drinking, swimming, and fishing standard are issued to dischargers. There are 1,671 organizations with discharge permits across the state whose performance must be inspected and reviewed by the Compliance Branch to assure that discharge limits are not exceeded.

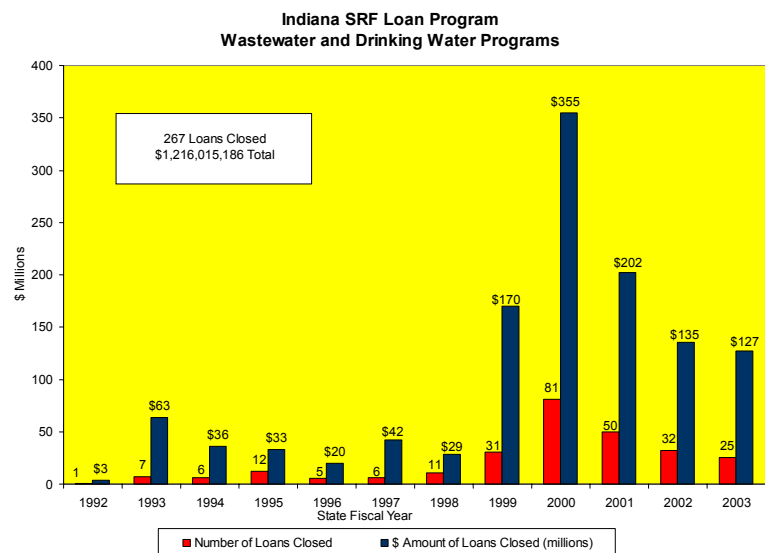
In support of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Drinking Water Branch reviews the performance of 4,500 public water supplies to assure compliance with the safe drinking water requirements. Nearly two-thirds of Indiana residents drink groundwater. The Drinking Water Branch works with local, state, and federal agencies to protect Indiana’s abundant groundwater supply, assuring safe drinking water for Hoosiers both now and in the future.

The State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) is administered jointly by IDEM and the **State Budget Agency**. Under the Direction of the Executive Director, **The SRF Program** provides low-interest loans to local communities for the purposes of financing infrastructure improvements that support clean drinking water and wastewater treatment. Low-interest SRF loans improve water quality and save money for utility ratepayers.

External Factors

External factors threatening Indiana’s surface waterways include combined sewer overflows, storm water runoff from agriculture and urban surfaces, and the destruction of wetlands. Combined sewer overflow problems stem from sewer construction practices utilized when urban areas were developed approximately 100 years ago.

Rainwater and sewage drains were combined into a single system — if heavy rains exceed the system’s drainage capacity, untreated sewage is forced into rivers and streams, causing bacterial contamination.



Runoff from agriculture and urban areas can also contaminate water sources with bacteria, as well as pesticides, oils and other contaminants which are washed off roads. Wetlands are essential to providing flood control, water filtering, and providing habitat for fish and other wildlife. Indiana has lost 87% of its original wetlands over the past two centuries.

Severe and unpredictable water pollution events such as the recent flooding that disabled sewage treatment plants in north-central Indiana require corresponding intensive use of IDEM response and mitigation resources.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

The number of major wastewater treatment facilities (typically those facilities with average design flows of more than one million gallons per day) with significant violations was reduced to 13 percent. The number of minor facilities with significant violations was reduced to 16 percent. IDEM completed water quality samples at its 164 fixed stations-59 more fixed stations than existed four years ago.

Over the last two years, IDEM and the State Budget Agency have made 56 low-interest State Revolving Loans worth over \$264 million to utilities across the state to make local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure improvements.



Plans for the Biennium

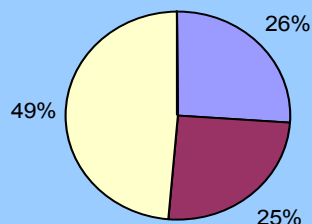
IDEM will continue to use good science and sound policy to shape and implement water quality standards throughout the next biennium. The Office of Water Quality will also continue to develop partnerships with local communities to restore state watersheds in ways that will achieve Indiana's water quality goals for drinking, swimming, and fishing.

Program: 0610

	Actual FY 2001	Actual FY 2002	Estimate FY 2003	Appropriation FY 2004	Appropriation FY 2005
(All Funds)	\$23,333,951	\$23,539,725	\$34,839,116	\$31,184,357	\$31,853,001

**Sources of Funds
FY 2004 (Approp)**

□ General ■ Dedicated □ Federal □ Other



**Uses of Funds
FY 2004 (Approp)**

□ Personal Services ■ Distributions □ Capital □ Other

